

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

The Beltsville News
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Beltsville, Md. 20705

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Beltsville, Maryland

October 2022

Beltsville Briefs

Emmanuel UMC to Hold Annual Blessing of the Animals on October 9 at 10 am

But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you

-Job 12:7

Animal blessing is a special ceremony conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. St. Francis considered animals to be his brothers and sisters, saying, "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." For many people, a pet is a member of the family. Animals experience emotions such as happiness, love, fear, or loneliness just like people do. Therefore, they build close emotional bonds with human beings.

Join the members of Emmanuel and the surrounding community on Oct. 9 at 10 am on the front

BELTSVILLE BRIEFS
continues on page 13



Emma Clay will be starring in Hamilton with The Seattle Theater Group.

Beltsville's own Emma Clay Starring in Hamilton!

Congratulations to Emma Clay, who grew up in Beltsville and attended Roosevelt High School, The University of MD, and Yale University on starring in The Seattle Theater Group's production of Hamilton!

Cub Pack 1031 is Off to a Great Year!

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 had their Join Scouting event on September 17th. We did our Stomp Rocket launch with paper rockets. We also "raced" like kangaroos, crabs, frogs, and inchworms! We learned Leave No Trace rules with hand signs and had fun getting to know new families.

This summer we hiked and biked, launched rockets at Goddard Visitors Center, worked on STEM NOVA achievements-flying paper airplanes and raced balloon Raingutter boats.

It is not too late to join just contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com for information. We are a family scouting unit. We learn outdoor skills, citizenship, STEM, nature and do service. We look forward to having



Scouts building their rockets to launch at Stomp rocket station at Pack 1031 Join Scouting Event

another fantastic year!! We are back in Beltsville Academy for our den meetings though we will be camping, doing service

and hiking in the outdoors. We are mask optional and still cautiously progressing toward regular meetings.

Enjoy a Good Mystery This Halloween with UpStage Artists!

UpStage Artists is preparing for its final show of the 2022 season, Agatha Christie's most popular mystery, *And Then There Were None*. The play is "A dark thriller in three acts. One of Christie's darkest tales and a masterpiece of dramatic construction, its growing sense of dread and unfaltering tension will keep you guessing to the very end." It opened on Broadway on June 27, 1944, and now, 78 years later, it is gracing a stage in Beltsville!

The play begins when Ten strangers are summoned to a remote island. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. As the weather turns and the group is cut off from the mainland, the bloodbath begins and one by one they are brutally murdered in accordance with the lines of a sinister nursery rhyme.

This is UpStage's 3rd show this year and they are looking forward



Becky Goldberg rehearses a scene from UpStage Artists "And Then There Were None" which runs from Oct. 28 through Nov. 6 at Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

to finishing their season with a good, old-fashioned murder mystery. Come out and join them for this incredible Who Done It!

Show dates are October 28, 29, November 4 and 5 at 7:30 pm and October 30 and November 6 at

2:30 pm. You can buy your tickets for \$12 at www.upstageartists.com/tickets today! UpStage Artists sincerely appreciates all the support that the Beltsville Community has given to their program.

NEXT ISSUE:
Submissions Due
No Later Than:
October 19
Paper Out:
October 29

On the Agenda



Karen Coakley

By President Karen M. Coakley

Exciting news! The end is in sight for Maryland 212/Powder Mill Road. Milling and paving will finally begin October 3rd (weather permitting). The first phase of paving will be between Pine Street and Garrett Avenue. The second phase will be between Route 1 and Rhode Island Avenue. The third phase will be between Rhode Island Avenue and Garrett Avenue. Paving will take place between 11:00 am and 10:00 PM. During this last phase I strongly suggest avoiding Powder Mill Road.

The Citizens Association will be co-hosting a meeting with our elected officials in lieu of our regular monthly meeting. We encourage Beltsville residents to attend two community Town Halls.

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville is hosting a Domestic Violence Town Hall on October 20 at 7:00 pm. The presentation will also cover "Teen Dating" Guest Speaker Jessica L. Garth (she/her/hers) Chief, Special Victims and Family Violence Unit, Legislative and Policy Chair State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County, Maryland. Look for

ON THE AGENDA
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Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

(From the Beltsville News Issue of November 2008)

By Ted Ladd

Tree Planted in Memory of Kimberly Weber

A tree was planted on the grounds of St. Joseph's Catholic School in memory of Kimberly Weber who lost her battle with breast cancer one year ago. Mr. Russo, Mrs. Alexander and custodian John Hollo-

man donated the beautiful tree. Kimberly loved St. Joseph's and worked hard on school fundraisers, including starting the Longaberger Basket bingo that raised money to replace the school ground equipment, computers, art supplies, etc. Kimberly's eldest daughter, Ashley, graduated from St. Joseph's Catholic School and will graduate from the University of Maryland in December. The other three children, Austin, Aimee and Aspen now attend St. Joseph's.

Letter to the Editor

Description: This project consists of rehabilitating Rhode Island Avenue in three phases, from MD 193 to US Route 1. Phase I, which is complete, involved constructing a signalized intersection with turn lanes at Edgewood Road, the construction of traffic calming measures, related intersection improvements, bicycle trail/shoulder lanes and the resurfacing of the roadway. Phase I also included minor improvements to the Rhode Island Avenue at Sunnyside Avenue intersection. The total project length is approximately 11,000 feet from MD 193 north to US Route 1. Phase II will involve further improvements between US Route 1 and Edgewood Road. Phase III will extend from Edgewood Road to MD 193.



Information referenced about phase III in the letter to the editor.

As you can see in this photo, without a sidewalk on this section of Rhode Island Avenue, it is very dangerous for bikers and pedestrians.

Dear Editor,

Ever since 1996, I always wondered why the short section of Rhode Island Avenue, just over the College Park city line at Paducah Street, becomes a country road

from there up to Sunnyside where the sidewalks return on BOTH sides of the street. The College Park sidewalk, up to Paducah on the east side of the street, suddenly ends in a guard rail jungle and the more recent College Park bike lane

grinds to a halt. I called the USDA Maintenance Department about this back then, since it is their property that borders on both sides of the R.I. street from Paducah up to Sunnyside, which is Federal land. They refused to consider any sidewalk continuation or even some extension of their pathway in the Sunnyside Neighborhood Park on Rhode Island. Instead, I was told to call the P.G. County Department of Public Works since I was told it is their responsibility. Phone calls to P.G. Highway Maintenance Departments have gone unheeded since then. A few years later, I opened an office in the Sunnyside Building for our nonprofit institute and often bike to the office, even along the one-foot-side treacherous side of Rhode Island Ave. on what I now regard as USDA property. What I find the scariest is when driving home after dark, very often there are people walking next to the road wearing dark or black clothing, who are almost impossible to see until almost on top of them. The pedestrian traffic at all hours is a daily occurrence since there is a bus stop on Sunnyside, with many of those bus riders apparently walking south into College Park from there or walking north to the bus stop on these one-foot-wide pathways adjacent to 40-50 mph traffic.

In 2011 and onwards, I tried to work with Delegate Mary Lehman, as well as the State Highway Administration, to raise awareness about this inexplicably neglected portion of Rhode Island Avenue which I feel is a pedestrian and bicyclist hazardous danger zone. Repeated calls and emails to Mary,

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

PUBLISHED BY THE BELTSVILLE-VANVILLE DISTRICT CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION INC.

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LETTER

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Kitty Post

By Michele Touchet



Cats Prepare for Winter Too!

It's hard to believe it's that time of year again! Leaves are starting to fall, pumpkin-spiced lattes, donuts and cookies are everywhere, and the Autumn chill is in the air. The task of pulling our winter coats from the back of the closet and dusting them off and pulling out our warmest sweaters is something humans do to prepare for the frosty days ahead.



Cats are starting to prepare for those dropping temperatures too! By October and November, most cats start breaking out their warm and furry winter coats. Is it the pumpkin spice in the air that alerts our beloved kitties to bust out their new winter fur? Well... as all cat owners know, our cats might have small-sized brains, but there is a lot happening in there! As daylight gets shorter, a cat's pituitary gland, which is pea-sized and located in the bottom of the brain, pumps out several different hormones that switches on a cat's behavioral response to grow a new coat. And the next thing you know, our kitties, both domestic and feral, shed their lighter summer coats and get a new winter hair style.

So those smooth, sleek summer coats morph into longer, fluffier winter wear. A cat's winter coat is made of a bottom layer of shorter, thicker, and denser, grayish-colored hair topped with pigmented and patterned longer, silkier guard hairs. But wait, a really cool thing part comes into play! Since each hair grows from a hair follicle, a cat can choose to move the fol-

licles closer together to keep warm or spread them apart to keep cool. So, in the winter, a cat's undercoat traps air and keeps it toasty. The longer guard hairs protect the kitty from moisture and the sun's ultra-violet radiation. So, that dastardly cat fur we all vacuum, lint roll and generally dislike is pretty magical, isn't it? Well... maybe not so much...

As you can imagine, the thickness of a coat, a cat's stored fat reserves and general health determines their ability to withstand low temperatures, including those cold floors we ourselves don't like walking on. So, make some warm cuddly places around the house for your beloved feline and don't forget to provide an outdoor shelter that is out of the wind as well as food and fresh (unfrozen) water for our feral and homeless cat friends. For instructions on how to build an insulated outdoor shelter for cats using a plastic storage tub, visit <https://www.beltsvillecats.net/resources>.

Here's to warm winter coats! Cheers!

ON THE AGENDA

continued from page 1

details in the Women's Community Club of Beltsville article. This will be a Zoom Meeting You can attend virtually of call in.

Annapolis Legislative Wrap Up Session for 2022 and Planning 2023. Beltsville, Calverton and Vansville Heights Citizens Association are inviting you to a Zoom meeting with State Senator Jim Rosapepe, Delegates Ben Barnes, Joseline Pena-Melnyk and Mary Lehman will give a sum-

mary of the past session. This is also Your opportunity to share your concerns, ideas for the 2023 Legislative session. If you have a specific question or concern that you would like to discuss please email karenmcoakley@gmail.com by October 19th. You can find details in this edition of the Beltsville News.

As always, if you have a community concern, I can be reached at 301-741-7672 or karenmcoakley@gmail.com



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From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

County Council, Politics, and Development

Because the County Council is responsible for local land-use decisions, including the Beltsville area, a lot of local politics revolves around development issues. And, while every county's General Plan of development for the past 60 years has prioritized Smart Growth principles and had policies to rein in sprawl, not one single plan has ever successfully prevented ever-consuming sprawl. So, it is no surprise that at the end of one council's term of office and with the incoming council dedicated to Smart Growth, there would be a flurry of legislative and political activity.

The last couple of weeks after the summer recess have seen a flurry of legislation being rushed through the process so that they may be enacted before the end of the term. For example, one bill eliminates most of the Council's authority to hear zoning and site plan cases, and another would preclude amendments to the zoning ordinance without a supermajority (this bill was pulled). This second bill was intended to make it harder to enact Smart Growth policies.

Several other bills propose developer-friendly amendments

to the brand-new Zoning Ordinance that effectively loosens regulations on certain properties by allowing developers to access or apply for looser regulations than the new ordinance would permit.

All of this, and even more, has been very controversial. The good news is that it has engaged a substantial number of public members around development, environment, and climate issues.

Fairland Regional Park Ready to Expand

When the Konterra Town Cen-

ter's site plan was approved a dozen years ago, Konterra was required to dedicate over 40 acres of land to Fairland Regional Park across from the skating rink and the pool. However, the timing for the transfer was tied to Konterra subdividing its property to break ground. Between the fiscal crisis and the more recent demise of retail stores, Konterra Town Center has been on hold waiting for development economics to sort itself out. Now, Konterra is processing its first two residential development applications and is ready to dedicate

the land to the park. The Council Member expects Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to develop a variety of athletic fields, but I also expect M-NCPPC to update its Fairland Regional Park Master Plan which will include a community engagement process. Stay tuned.

Gas Stations and Residential Neighborhoods

On September 16th, Council Member Dernoga's bill, County Bill (CB)-76-2022 focused on gas stations passed out of the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee. The bill will ensure gas stations will not be bunched together in abundance or near residential neighborhoods without submitting a plan to the District Council first for select zones.

Drive Thru Trunk or Treat

Join Council Member and the rest of the District 1 Team for Trunk or Treat 2022 on Tuesday, October 25th from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Beltsville Academy. This will be a free and fun event for the whole family. Participants will need to drive through rather than walk up. Check @TomDernogaD1 on social media for additional information. Donations of candy would be greatly appreciated and may be dropped off at the District VI Police Station at 4321 Sellman Road.

Contact Us

Please keep in touch. Email us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301.952.3887. Se habla Español. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @TomDernogaD1



Corporal Kenneth Hibbert from Beltsville District VI participating in the District 1 2021 Drive Thru Trunk or Treat.



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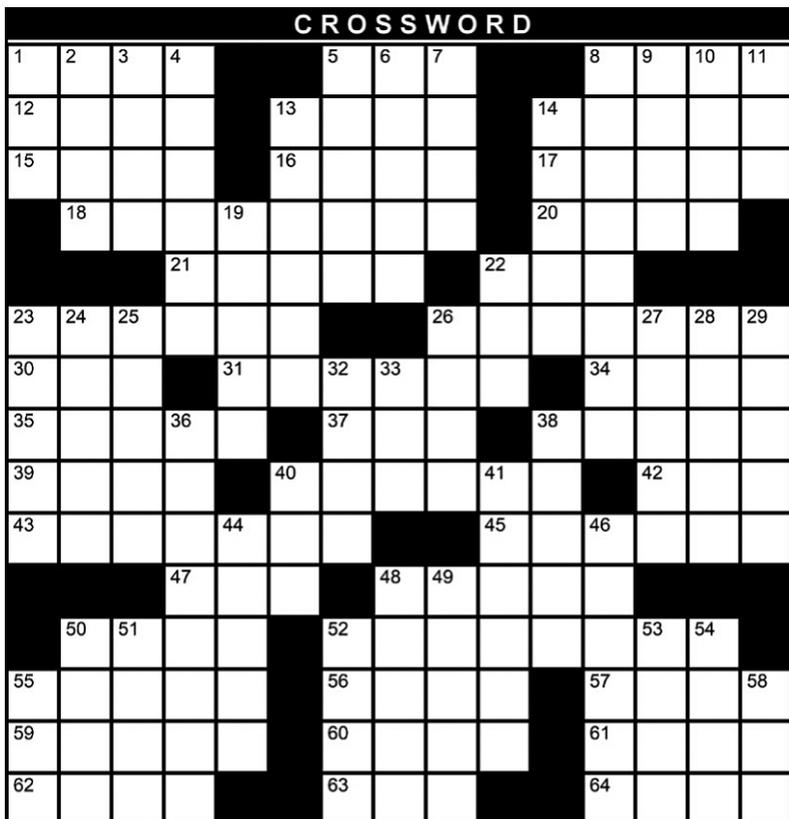
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Statepoint Crossword: Football



ACROSS

- '90s Don Johnson TV character
- India's smallest state
- Light on one's feet
- Arctic floater
- Mouthful, swallowed
- Rocks at mountain base
- Reading helper
- Serve soup
- Clean & _____, in a workout
- *QB's target
- Wholly engrossed
- Religious ritual table
- Scot's woolen cap
- Relating to milk
- Oil-producing plant
- Shakespearean "fuss"
- Crowd
- Like the White Rabbit
- Chip feature
- Mozart's "L' _____ del Cairo"
- Asian goat antelope
- Turn sharply
- Yield
- Compass bearing
- *When QB changes play at line of scrimmage
- _____ identity
- Failed Molotov cocktail

- Alicia Keys' instrument
- Final notice
- *It results in change of possession in football
- Off-white color
- Actor Pitt
- Type of ore
- Classic TV's "lovely lady"
- Stiff hair
- Vegetative state
- Distinctive elegance
- Prior to, prefix
- *Tom Brady's 2008, 2018 or 2021 award

DOWN

- *Professional football org.
- Relating to armpit
- Not all
- Jazz subculture hipster
- Tropical juice flavor
- Comparative form of #40
- Imitator
- *QB's run
- SAT or ACT _____ course
- Catch one's breath
- "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band
- Malfunction

- Hair product
- Chosen few
- Dress like Ancient Greeks
- Butterfly, pre-metamorphosis
- Bye, to Élisabeth Borne
- Encrypted
- *a.k.a. hike
- Dog-_____ pages
- Do penance
- Not as old
- Casanova, e.g.
- Two before Dec.
- *NFL playing field
- Shorthand
- Antediluvian
- Idi Amin's country
- Butane derivative
- Not an expert
- Less adulterated
- All worked up
- Like Joe Biden's office
- _____ Bora
- Chef's amt.
- Son of Aphrodite
- Boisterous play
- *_____ the kicker
- "Uh-uh"

See Solution on page 13

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Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

November 8th Maryland General Election

Maryland's 2022 Midterm Election is on Tuesday, November 8th. We want to be sure you have the information you need.

What races are on the ballot?

- US Senate and House
- Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller
- State Senator and Delegates
- County offices, including County Council, County Executive, and State's Attorney.
- Other important races, such as Circuit Court Judge and ballot initiatives.

Key Dates

The last day to register to vote online or by mail is Tuesday, October 18. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is Tuesday, November 1. Early Voting in person begins Thursday, October 27, and runs through Thursday, November 3 (including Saturday and Sunday) from 7 am to 8 pm.

Election Day in person and last day to drop off or mail your ballot: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 from 7 am to 8 pm.

Where to vote

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Senator Jim Rosapepe

mail is a great way to protect your vote and your health. If you prefer to go to a drop box or vote in person, here are the closest voting locations:

Early voting:

Laurel – Beltsville Senior Activity Center. 7120 Contee Road, Laurel, MD 20707

College Park Community Center. 5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park, MD 20740

Election day:

Visit voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch

to find your election day polling place.

The State Board of Elections will have more information on how to vote. Go to www.elections.maryland.gov.

Federal Student Loan Forgiveness - November Deadline

President Biden has announced \$10,000 (and \$20,000 for recipients of Pell Grants) in student loan debt forgiveness for all borrowers making less than \$125,000 a year. A simple application will become available in October which will need to be completed by November 15th. Visit StudentAid.gov/DebtRelief to be notified when the application becomes available. COVID-19 emergency relief measures pausing payments on student loans were extended on ED-owned federal student loans through December 31, 2022.

Contact us

Please let us know if there are other issues you have questions or thoughts about. And, of course, feel free to be in touch if we can be of help to you. Just email 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com or call 301-858-3141.

Neighbors in the News

Beltsville Resident Recognized as Social Health Awards winner

Beltsville Resident Elle Cole, who is a caregiver for a daughter with sickle cell disease and type 1 diabetes, was recently recognized as a Social Health Awards winner, which honors patient and caregiver leaders who are essential to the ongoing conversations and connections made through social health. Ms. Cole was recognized as the "Caregiving Champion" this year!

The Social Health Awards are selected by Health Union. According to their website "Health Union

was started in 2010 by two pharmaceutical industry colleagues and friends, who understood the untapped potential to leverage technology in ways that would enable people living with chronic conditions to learn, connect and share in meaningful and impactful ways." They are based in Philadelphia, PA.

According to Ms. Cole's story on wegohealth.com, "I am a mom of twin daughters, one of whom is living with both Sickle Cell Disease and Type 1 Diabetes. I

serve as a parent health advocate for both illnesses, and recently authored, "A Sickle Cell Coloring Book for Kids," which is an A to Z guide for growing up with Sickle Cell Disease." She was one of six finalists in the Caregiving Champion category and among the hundreds nominated for Health Union's inaugural Social Health Awards (previously known for 10 years as the WEGO Health Awards). You can learn more about Ms. Cole and her family on her website cleverlychanging.com.

Annapolis Legislative Wrap Up Session for 2022...Planning 2023

Beltsville, Calverton, and Vansville Heights Citizens Association are inviting everyone to a scheduled Zoom meeting to discuss the legislative session that wrapped up in April. State Senator Jim Rosapepe, Delegates Ben Barnes, Joseline Pena-Melnyk and Mary Lehman will give a summary of the past session.

This is also your opportunity to share your concerns and ideas

for the 2023 Legislative session. If you have a specific question or concern that you would like to discuss, please email karenmcoakley@gmail.com by October 19th. The Zoom details are below.

District 21 Legislative Wrap Up Session for 2022...Planning 2023
Time: Tuesday, Oct 25, 2022, 07:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83339375243?pwd=akpmTWdsU28xVk9DQXYzOVdzaEVMdz09>
Meeting ID: 833 3937 5243
Passcode: 325418

If you are calling in, call 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 833 3937 5243
Passcode: 325418

Using your Tools: The Browser

We have been back to school for a few weeks now and I thought it might be time to learn how to better use your computer and the software it includes. The most common software used for most home computers is the Internet browser. Depending on your computer and your personal choice the browser is likely to be one or more of Google Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Apple Safari. There are other choices but these four represent 85% of the browser traffic going to Wikipedia as of October 2021 with all the remaining browsers each having less than a 2% share. The web browser is the tool used to access the World Wide Web on the Internet.

Web Browser Choices

First let me answer a personal question, my personal choice of browser is Firefox which I use on my Linux and Windows computers and my Android phone. My reason for using Firefox is that in my experience it provides the most privacy and protection of the major browsers. Chrome is the most popular browser with more users than all the other browsers combined. I used Chrome on the handful of Linux systems that I have that do not support Firefox. My primary issue with Chrome is that Google's primary business is selling advertisements and it is difficult to turn these off on the Chrome browser. Microsoft Edge



is Microsoft's replacement for Internet Explorer. If you are still using Explorer please stop now, it is no longer supported and is not safe to use on the Internet. Edge is built on top of the same codebase as Google Chrome but has Microsoft "enhancements." Safari is currently specific to Apple products and other vendors must use a browser based on Apple's WebKit libraries the same as Safari. This means that only the appearance of the application is different if you use Firefox or Chrome and you do not get the advantages of the other JavaScript or HTML rendering engines.

The Tab Bar

Working down from the top, most browsers offer a "tab" oriented interface. Each tab represents a different webpage and selecting a tab changes the view to that

page. Holding the mouse cursor on the tab allows the tab to be moved (dragged) into a different place left, or right of its current position. Right clicking with the mouse brings down a menu of choices which varies slightly between browsers. The choices often include closing the tab or moving it to a new browser window and may also include moving the tab into a new browser window. The "pin" menu choice will stick the tab in place, so it stays open in the browser.

The Tool Bar

Below the "tab bar" is the "tool bar." The tool bar usually has a series of icons and spaces where information and can be entered. The icons start on the left and start with left and right arrows,

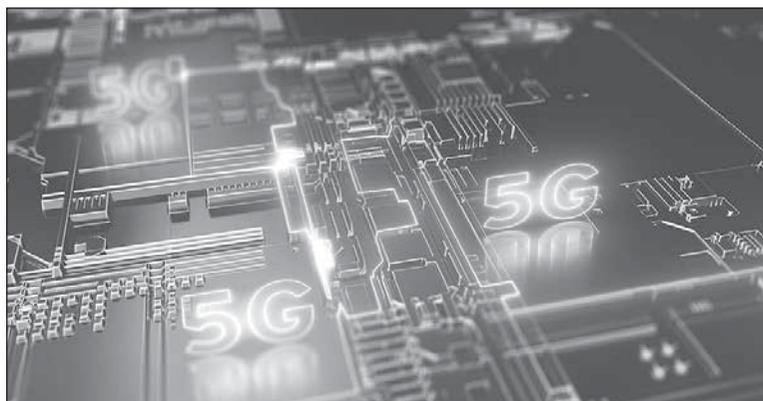
TECH SENSE
continues on page 14

3G is Going Away – What it Means for You

(StatePoint) Similar to how the ways we listen to music and watch movies have changed, cellular networks are evolving too. In fact, all major wireless providers plan to shutter their 3G cellular networks this year.

3G networks are the wireless equivalent of being on dial-up internet access years ago. Built in the early 2000s, 3G networks are slower, less efficient, and not equipped to support the way we use smartphones today. Americans increasingly depend on their ability to connect to the internet for just about everything and the latest generation of wireless, 5G, is capable of delivering massively faster speeds, enabling and improving everything we rely on our smartphones to do.

As wireless companies continue to invest in building out their 5G networks, 3G networks will be shut down to make room for this new technology and, ultimately, deliver a vastly superior wireless experience. That's because there's a limited supply of available spectrum -- the airwaves that wireless signals use. Wireless companies can take the airwaves once used for 3G and



(c) Violka08 / iStock via Getty Images Plus

start using them to add more bandwidth to 5G. And more spectrum means better coverage and faster speeds for consumers.

If you have a phone that still relies on 3G, your wireless provider will contact you before their planned shutdown, and you're most likely eligible for a free device upgrade.

Even if your phone isn't from the 3G era, if you aren't yet one of the millions who've upgraded to 5G, the end of 3G means it's time to trade up for a new device that can take full advantage of faster 5G networks, according to industry

experts. Keeping affordability and connectivity in mind, wireless providers are always offering deals.

Research 5G coverage and speeds from the providers where you live and like to travel. The wireless industry has changed significantly since the 3G era, so you may be surprised to learn which network is delivering the fastest and most reliable coverage today. T-Mobile was the first wireless provider in the United States to launch nationwide 5G and, thanks to its merger with Sprint in 2020,

3G
continues on page 11



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Struggling with job loss, to pay rent, to get food, or need emergency help? The Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC) exists to help those in the Beltsville Community and beyond take the next step toward financial independence.

FIND US at 4220 Ammendale Road, Beltsville MD 20705, located in the house behind the Beltsville SDA Church

BACC Services

- Job Counseling Assistance
- Rental & Utility Assistance (on a case by case basis)
- Food Supplement
- Professional Counseling

On Site Agent of Dept of Social Services (DSS)

- SAIL: Apply for services on-line
- Food Supplement (FS)
- Medical Assistance for Families & Children (FAC)
- Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)
- Recertify—(Redetermination) -Dropoff documents
- Other DSS Emergency Assistance

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How to Protect Yourself and Your Family From Preventable Diseases

(StatePoint) Both in the United States and globally, childhood and adult vaccination rates have seen what community health experts are calling a “concerning decline” since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now is the time to ensure that you and your children are up to date on all recommended vaccines to best protect you and your family from preventable diseases.

“Vaccines are among the greatest medical breakthroughs in the history of medicine. Millions of lives have been saved and severe outcomes from various diseases have been prevented because of vaccines. At this moment, in part because of people missing routine immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic and in part because of misinformation around vaccines, our vaccination numbers have declined, which has impacted certain populations who are more susceptible to preventable diseases. I urge you to check with your physician, schedule that preventive screening, and make sure you and your children are up to date on your vaccines,” says Jack Resneck Jr., M.D., president of the American Medical Association.

According to Dr. Resneck, here are three steps to take to get back on track:

1. Schedule routine visits with your and your child’s physicians



(c) Drazen Zigic / iStock via Getty Images Plus

for important preventive care, including recommended health screenings and vaccines based on age and health status. Babies and young children are especially susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases, and right now, tens of thousands of children in the U.S. are not up to date on their vaccination against extremely contagious diseases, such as measles and whooping cough.

2. You should also make sure that you and your children are up to date on COVID-19 vaccines. Experts have cautioned about a possible surge this fall and winter.

With new Omicron-specific bivalent boosters available for people 12 and older, the time for additional protection from severe outcomes from COVID-19 is now. Additionally, all children aged 6 months and up are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, and physicians highly recommend getting vaccinated as early as possible. You can get a COVID-19 vaccine and a flu vaccine at the same time if you are eligible, and the timing coincides. For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit:

DISEASES

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LETTER

continued from page 2

her Legislative Assistant Matt Dernoga, and Chief of Staff Brigette did nothing. In fact, Matt suggested in 2011 that “these improvements are difficult to achieve and rarely happen overnight...” In 2014, I actually tried to coerce some highway workers into adding sidewalks to their CURB installation project on Rhode Island to no avail. The curb they installed at the corner near my office has now made a lake formation take place in the street after every heavy rain, just south of Sunnyside on Rhode Island Avenue.

In 2018, Jasmine Smith at the State Highway Administration said they “will look into it.” Then in 2019, by chance I approached Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk at the College Park Post Office and subsequently sent her a complete collection of the correspondence regarding the Rhode Island issue. She instructed me to contact Councilman Thomas Dernoga which I did, who then referred me to his Chief of Staff Michelle Garcia, who also received my detailed emails with maps of the R. I. section desperately needing a makeover. Michelle promptly responded in September, 2019 calling it the “Valone Matter” with a promise that “The Councilmember will write to you directly.” Two years later in 2021, Councilman Fazlul Kabir emailed me that other residents had also interest in sidewalks

on that section of Rhode Island. He also included “Mr. Martin Harris, the Acting Director of DPW&T, and Councilmember Dernoga” in the email. So, on December 17, 2021 Councilmember Thomas Dernoga really did email me about work he proposed in 2003. He added at the end that “I will advocate with the administration to prioritize what remains of phase 3 (Paducah to Route 1) *in the upcoming capital budget program*” (my emphasis). However, what struck me about this politically obfuscated jargon about a newly added proposal is that the short stretch of Rhode Island from Paducah to Sunnyside, has now expanded considerably so he seems to be adding a larger chunk to some “capital budget program” than is needed, which may add more delay. Surprisingly, a contradictory Proposed Capital Improvement Program & Budget released in 2021 (p. 230 attached) with its \$11 million for Rhode Island only indicates that “Phase III will extend from Edgewood Road to MD 193” *which is south of Beltsville and entirely in College Park.*

Maybe Senator Jim Rosapepe will help install sidewalks and a bike lane on a little Beltsville country road hiding in plain sight.

Sincerely,
Thomas Valone, PhD, PE
President
Integrity Research Institute

Beltsville Voter Guide



Dear Beltsville neighbors,

For the past four years, we have represented you in the Maryland legislature. We’ve done our best to help working and retired families — and keep Beltsville a good place to live.

We’re running for re-election on the Democratic ticket along with great nominees for federal, state, and county offices, listed here. We would appreciate your support.

Also on the ballot are important county bond issue referenda to invest in our local schools, libraries, and roads, and changes to the state constitution and county charter. We support all of them.

If you have questions or would like to discuss any of the candidates or ballot questions, call us at 240-712-4646 or email 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com.

Many thanks!

— Jim, Joseline, Ben, and Mary

Vote Early
Oct 27 – Nov 3

7am–8pm

Laurel Beltsville Senior Center or the College Park Community Center.

Vote By Mail Now!

Your request for a mail ballot application must be received by Tues Nov 1.

By authority, Team 21 State/ Carolyn Brosch, Treasurer

21st District Democratic Team Sample Ballot

Governor/ Lt. Gov.	County Council	Judge of the Orphans’ Court
Wes Moore and Aruna Miller	Mel Franklin and Calvin Hawkins – At Large	Wendy Cartwright Jason DeLoach Athena Malloy Groves
Comptroller	Tom Dernoga – District 1	Sheriff
Brooke Lierman	Judge of the Circuit Court	John D.B. Carr
Attorney General	Carol Ann Coderre	STATE BALLOT QUESTIONS – Vote for all
Anthony Brown	Judge Court of Special Appeals At Large	1. Renames Maryland Court of Appeals
US Senator	Stuart Berger and Terrence Zic – Yes For Continuance in Office	2. Residency requirements for legislators
Chris Van Hollen	State’s Attorney	3. Jury trial and civil cases
US Representative	Aisha Braveboy	4. Legalizes adult use of marijuana
Glenn Ivey	Clerk of the Circuit Court	5. Howard County Orphans Court
State Senator	Mahasin El Amin	COUNTY BOND ISSUES
Jim Rosapepe	Register of Wills	Questions A, B, C, D, and E – FOR
House of Delegates	Cereta A. Lee	COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENTS
Ben Barnes Mary A. Lehman Joseline Peña-Melnyk		Questions F, G, H, I, and J – FOR
County Executive		
Angela Alsobrooks		

Texas is an interesting place. This week, a grocery chain, H.E.B opened a large store in the Frisco part of North Dallas. An unprecedented crowd showed up. Local news reports have it that the first person in the line got there at 6 p.m. the night before and waited 1 hour for the official opening. An estimated crowd of over 1500 people stood in line and the weather has not been kind to us, with temperatures hovering in the ninety-degree region. All this for a grocery store. Imagine a super-market like Safeway opening a branch and one stands in line for many hours, just to go and shop. HEB is traditional to Texas, so there is all the excitement. I will visit one of these days but for now, I love my Walmart and EL Rancho (a Latino store).

Also on the news, this month, you would have heard about how

police were tipped off about a potential shooting threat, and subsequently, two teenagers were taken into custody when they showed up to a local sports event in a car that had an automatic rifle and a handgun and plenty ammunition. They intended to shoot people at the event, in what would have been a very random premeditated massacre. If you have ever lived in Texas, high school sporting events are a big deal – hundreds of people show up in support.

Readers I have a problem with my garden, AGAIN! When I lived in Beltsville near High Point High School, I had issues with deer and my attempts to grow a garden. They would eat up all my stuff. Recently in Dallas I decided to try and do a few flowers in the front of my home, and the rabbits have decided to show up in their numbers and strip my flowers. I can

never win with these animals.

As a teacher, it is a thing of pride when one sees that the time one puts in, working with the young, pays off. I type this and look back with pride to my younger days when I taught English Language and Literature in Brooklyn, New York, and in St. Kitts, where I taught 6th Formers (the equivalent of 12th grade), essay writing on current affairs. (Under the British style of education in the Caribbean, it is known as GP – General Paper). I have former students who have excelled in their respective fields. I have flown on airplanes commercially, with pilots I taught when they were little 15-year-olds. Some are medical doctors, engineers, international soccer referees, models, and much more. However, in the month of August, elections were held in St. Kitts-Nevis and the

candidate from the Labor Party, won his seat and emerged as the new Prime Minister of St. Kitts-Nevis. So, I officially congratulate Prime Minister Terrence “Umi” Drew who is now the Prime Minister of the twin island federation. I taught him in 6th Form – very humble and eager to learn about other lands and places. I wish him well. He is in his mid-40’s.

This month, another student of mine, Nerys Chiverton, whom I taught as a little 15-year-old, has been appointed as the Permanent Representative of St. Kitts-Nevis to the United Nations Mission in New York. She just turned 42 years old, the day after the appointment – the perfect birthday gift.

I will wrap up with a very interesting story. Earlier this week, I had to go to my doctor for a check-up and as part of the deal, I had to fast from the night before since

they would be doing lab work. As soon as I was finished at my doctor’s office, I drove two minutes to the nearest Chick Fil A, to eat a well-deserved breakfast. If you know me, I have a hair challenge that is ongoing – some describe it as baldness. Do not laugh at me. I am due for a haircut so there are visible signs of grey hair on my head and my goatee. Anyway, I order my meal and the young lady at the counter gave me a senior discount. In my mind, I could not believe that is what she thought of me. The scary part of this is knowing that in a few years, those discounts will become regular. I do not want to get older, just yet. Wish I could go back to being 30 years old...sigh Gas used to cost \$1.51 a gallon back then. Have a nice safe month ahead.

Why You Should Plan Ahead This Heating Season

(StatePoint) Between the Russian invasion of Ukraine and sky-high oil and gas prices, a significant pellet fuel supply shortage is likely this winter season. Industry experts say you should plan ahead and secure your fuel now for the cold winter months. The good news is that, currently, there is plenty of supply to stock up.

As Tim Portz, executive director of the Pellet Fuels Institute explains, Russia is the second largest producer of wood pellets globally, supplying more than 2 million tons to global markets in 2020. But sanctions and restrictions due to the invasion of Ukraine have required U.S. pellet producers to fill the gap.

What’s more, the sticker shock Americans may experience this winter when reviewing their energy bills will likely have many switching to pellet heating in search of a better deal, and those with multiple heating options may start opting for pellets, putting extra demand on potentially short

supplies.

“Wood pellet demand fluctuates year to year, however with heating oil, natural gas, electric and propane prices at near historic highs, we could see record sales of pellets in 2022-2023,” says Portz. “Consumers will need to be savvy. To ensure their annual supply is secured, they should stock up now.”

Wood pellets are used as primary or secondary space heat in more than 1 million homes nationwide. Pellets are a renewable, clean-burning fuel made from the waste streams generated by the manufacturers of products like dimensional lumber, hardwood flooring, wood pallets and cabinetry. Although supplies are strong right now, pellet producers are highlighting the importance of keeping inventory moving through the system.

With the capacity to produce more than 1 million tons of wood pellets each year, Lignetics Group, the largest residential wood pel-

let manufacturing company in the United States, notes that taking advantage of the surplus while it lasts will allow producers to run at full throttle and build inventory before usage begins to outpace production in the depths of winter.

Because pellets are competitively priced nationwide, consumers who opt for this method of heating will save hundreds of dollars over the course of a winter season compared to heating oil or propane, and thousands of dollars compared to electric heat.

“Many have already turned to wood pellet heating and many more are expected to do so amid the current energy crisis,” says Brett Jordan, CEO of Lignetics Group. “However, these consumers will need to take their wise choice a step further by being prepared. Fueling up now on your normal pellet supply will mean being able to take advantage of this sustainable and cost-efficient option all winter.”

DISEASES

continued from page 10

getvaccineanswers.org.

3. Understand that even countries once declared polio-free or measles-free are not risk-free, particularly for the unvaccinated. An adult in New York was recently partially paralyzed by polio, and the virus has been found in area wastewater samples, leading to the declaration of a disaster in the state to help support localities in responding to the out-

break. Because some areas and populations are under-vaccinated, the risk of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases is increased.

“Unfortunately, if we don’t get our vaccine coverage rates back to where they were before the pandemic began, we run the risk of seeing outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases that we thought we’d long ago overcome,” says Dr. Resneck. “To protect yourself and your family from current and future outbreaks, get up to date on vaccinations now.”

3G

continued from page 7

it now has the largest, fastest and most reliable 5G network, covering nearly everyone in the country.

It’s also a good time to take a look at your phone plan, especially if you’re on a limited data plan and want to stream music and videos – or just stop hunting for Wi-Fi.

Along with great coverage, find a plan with built-in benefits, such as free international data roam-

ing, gas savings, and discounts on everyday items to make the most out of your mobile phone.

For more information on the future of 5G, visit t-mobile.com/5G.

Connectivity is more essential today than ever, underscoring the importance of the evolution to 5G. From entertainment and gaming to education, the latest wireless technology can connect you to everything that matters, faster than ever before.

AWARENESS OF GOD

How aware of wonder
Are those who recognize
Who You are, Your coming,
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Pearl and ruby beauty
Is pale beside Your glow,
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Beckie Hutchings * 8/04/22

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Calendar of Events

Remember that all venues may change or cancel events based on the current health situation in Maryland. It's always a good idea to call ahead before going to an event.

AREA EVENTS

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Address: 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.864.6029. Fax: 301.927.6472. Regular hours of operation: Open Tuesday – Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays and major holidays. Cost: Adults/\$5; Seniors/\$4; Children/\$2 (1-year-old and under, free). The museum exhibit area highlights 10 unique aircraft and objects relating the history of early aviation at the College Park Airport. Please contact the museum regarding additional activities and updates to COVID-19 protocols.

COLLEGE PARK DAY

Sat., Oct. 15 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. This is the City of College Park's signature event and features a wide array of activities, entertainment, and fun to celebrate the community. **The event is open to the public and free to attend.** For more information, visit CollegeParkDay.org.

VICTORIA FALLS WEEKEND CRAFT SHOW

Sat., Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sun., Oct. 23 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. **All homemade arts and crafts.** Rain or shine; the show will be held inside the clubhouse. Address: 13701 Belle Chasse Blvd., Laurel, MD 20707. Free admission; open to the public. Call 240.344.5807 for more information.

ST. NICHOLAS FALL BAZAAR

This is a two-day event: Fri., Oct. 21 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (with a break for 5 p.m. Mass). Address: St. Nicholas Parish Hall, 8603 Contee Rd. in Laurel. The bazaar features homemade crafts, Treasure Trove of Gifts, raffles for gift baskets, *Pages from the Past* book/movies/music sale, Wine Tombola, Kick-Off for One Grand Raffle, children's activities on Saturday, and food concession serving snacks and Oktoberfest dinner on Friday, and breakfast, lunch, and Baked Ziti dinner on Saturday. For more information, please contact donnac803@aol.

LAUREL-BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

Masks are optional. Contact the center for updates. Membership is free for Beltsville residents who are 60 years old or older. Closed on Sundays. Contact the center for updates to hours of operation and current COVID-19 protocols. Address: 7120 Contee Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, around the corner from the University of Maryland Medical Center. Phone: 301.206.3350. Fax: 301.206.3387.

TTY: 301.446.3402.

LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB (LSFC)

We will have our next meeting on Wed., Oct. 12 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. We will have a business meeting and special musical entertainment.

• **We have one more one-day trip scheduled** — in December. Call the office for more info.

• Every Tuesday Bingo: 12 noon each Tuesday (doors open at 11 a.m.); no admission fee.

• Contact the LSFC office for more details on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 301.206.3380.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

Main phone: 301.497.5772. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore–Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. Free admission and free parking. Current social distancing and face covering requirements match those of Prince George's County. All dogs must be kept on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) for their own safety as well as that of other visitors and wildlife. Regular hours of operation for the trails and grounds are: Open daily from sunrise to sunset, *except for federal holidays*. See the Friends of Patuxent website for more information at <https://friendsofpatuxent.org/>.

THE BUILDING, ART GALLERY, & BOOKSTORE

Contact the Visitor Center for updates. Main phone: 301.497.5772. Join our e-mail list by contacting timothy_parker@fws.gov. More information can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent. The Visitor Center and the art gallery are open Tuesday – Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; closed on Sunday, Monday, and federal holidays. The art gallery is adjacent to the bookstore. **The featured artist for October is illustrator Amanda Spaid.** The bookstore is open Tuesday – Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

KID'S DISCOVERY CENTER

Tuesday through Saturday: *Pre-registered parent/child teams* are invited into the Center on the hour, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for a 35-minute, fun-filled session. **The theme for October: Is it a SQUIRREL or CHIPMUNK?** Join us at to find out about these small rodents. Activities are age-appropriate for children ages 3 – 8 (no children under the age of 3 years old). Call our front desk at 301.497.5760 to make your reserva-

tion.

URBAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DAY

Sat., Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All ages, no registration required. Come celebrate the joys of having wildlife next to our homes in the city. This year's celebration includes live animals, arts and crafts, pop-up archery, and several programs on the trails.

YOUR DOG & BARK RANGER TRAINING

Sat., Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All ages, registration required. **Does your dog enjoy walking the trails at Patuxent?** Bring your dog to our BARK Ranger training. Upon completion your dog can monitor the trails as a certified B.A.R.K. Ranger. (Participating youth must be accompanied by an adult.)

DRIVING TOUR: SOLVING NATURE'S MYSTERIES

Sat., Oct. 8 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Recommended ages 10+, registration required. Join former Refuge Manager Brad Knudsen on a behind the scenes tour of the refuge's Central Tract to learn how wildlife research and refuge management have worked together to assist wildlife conservation efforts locally, nationally, and globally.

EASY POLLINATOR-HABITAT GARDENS

Sat., Oct. 8 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. All ages, registration required. Did you know that you can help wildlife right from your home? Planting just a few native plants can make a great home for native pollinators. Come to this class for help with starting your own backyard wildlife refuge.

FAMILY FUN: CREEPY CRITTERS

Fri., Oct. 21 and Sat., Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. All ages, no registration required. October means Halloween: Time for spooky owls, scary bats, and crawly spiders. Are these animals creepy, or are they cool? Come learn more about them through hands-on activities, games, and crafts. *This is a drop-in program—come when you wish and leave when you're ready.*

NATIVE PLANTS FOR PATIOS AND DECKS

Sat., Oct. 22 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. All ages, registration required. How do you create a wildlife home in the limited space of a patio or deck? Join in on this informative session and adopt a native plant grown at the USGS Bee Lab.

JUNIOR WILDLIFE RANGER

CALENDAR

continues on page 15



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Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

TECH SENSE
continued from page 7

left being used to move back to the previous webpage (if there was one) and right being used to move forward to the next page assuming you have previously moved backwards. The next icons are often a house (sometimes confused with a fat up arrow) and a circular arrow.

The house icon (if it appears) is used to navigate to your home page. Your home page can be changed in the browser settings. Chrome defaults to google.com while Edge comes with the default setting to a Bing related page with search and news articles. The home icon may or may not appear. If the home icon is missing it can be added back through the settings menu on most browsers.

The circular arrow has a special purpose, it refreshes the page if it has changed. Technically, it sends new request to the web server asking for the contents to be re-sent whether the contents have been changed. This is often useful if a page hasn't rendered correctly, and you want to try again.

The next area on the tool bar allows text to be entered and it is called the address or address/search bar. This is where a web URL can be entered to directly navigate to a page on the web. All the browsers used to have a separate search bar that allowed a search to be performed immediately. Some browsers allow this to be re-enabled. The default however is that if text is entered into the address bar and not recognized as an URL it will be sent to the selected search engine and the browser will return the search results.

The icons that follow are likely to be different on each browser. The right most icon will normally be three short lines or dots stacked vertically. Selecting this icon will bring you to the browser settings menu. To the left of this you may find an image of a face or a place holder for one. This allows you to sign-in to the browser maker, Google for Chrome, Mozilla for Firefox, and Microsoft for Edge. Google and Microsoft use the log-in to help them track you across different devices and all of them will use it to synchronize the data they store for you like passwords, addresses and web form information across devices. I make it a habit to always log out here when I need to use the web privately.

Wrap Up

I am out of room for more this month. Next month is the Christmas Shopping column so I will pick up part 2 after that. In part 2 we will talk about important settings, private browsing, bookmarking, and add-ons and extensions. I am considering a future column on how to get value from your spreadsheet and how to use your Word processor like a writer. Let me know if you are interested in topics like this.

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Go to <https://www.facebook.com/stJohnsZionParish/Live/>
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Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom
Youth Sunday School Online via Zoom
Contact the Church office if you are interested
in any of these resources

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Keith Holland, Pastor

Sundays:

Sunday School for all ages	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 p.m.
Youth Fellowship	7:00 p.m.

TRUNK OF TREATS
Saturday, October 29, 2022
4:00p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Come join the fun and go for a hayride,
play some games, prizes and candy!
Then have the kids enjoy candy from the
trunk or treat cars before you leave

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Sunday Morning Hybrid Worship 10 AM
All In-Person Attendees are encouraged to wear a mask
Both in-person and virtual worship are closed captioned
Zoom details can be found on our website
You can also watch the live stream on our Facebook page.
For where 2 or 3 gather in my name, I am there.

What's Happening † Worship Sundays at 10 am (in-person & virtual)
† Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 pm (virtual)
† ESL Classes Thursdays at 7 pm (virtual)
† Food Distribution Saturday, October 22 8:00 - 9:30 am for seniors
and 9:30 to 11:00 am for the general public.
† UpStage Artists presents Agatha Christie's "And
Then There Were None" October 28-Nov. 6

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CALENDAR

continued from page 12

Sat., Oct. 22 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Ages 6 – 10, registration required. Join a Refuge Ranger to explore five nature-related activities. Complete your Junior Wildlife Ranger (JWR) activity booklet and earn a JWR badge!

SAVE THE DATE: WILDLIFE HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Sat., Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. The Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar will feature wildlife-related, natural, and environmentally friendly products for sale. There will be a café for lunch plus a bake sale, plant table, and craft activities for all.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at http://twitter.com/#!/National_Ag_Lib. We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Online information products are always available at NAL.usda.gov and Nutrition.gov. Get MyPlate nutrition information for babies and toddlers via the free Amazon Alexa app. To learn more, visit www.myplate.gov/myplateassistant.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY

Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next to the police station. The main phone number is 301.937.0294. TTY: 301.808.2061. Ask a Librarian telephone reference: 240.455.5451. Regular hours of operation are Mon., Thur., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tue. and Wed. from 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on most major holidays. Contact the library for updates and late changes. See www.pgcmis.info/location/Beltsville.

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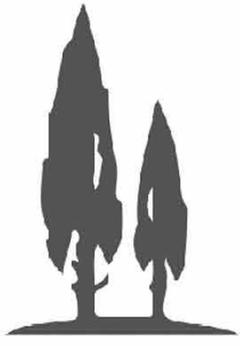
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